



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Rico Phillips**, 30, Kansas City, Kansas, was sentenced on April 19, 2004, by Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum to **eight years and one month in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release.**

Melgren stated that Phillips entered a guilty plea on January 27, 2004, to one count of **distributing 5 grams or more (.17 ounce or more) of crack cocaine .**

Melgren said that Phillips admitted at his plea that between January 25, 2003, and March 21, 2003, he sold crack cocaine on four occasions to an individual working for the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. Phillips further admitted that on January 25, 2003, he sold approximately 22.3 grams (approximately .79 ounce) of crack cocaine for \$800; on February 8, 2003, he sold approximately 7.3 grams (approximately .25 ounce) of crack cocaine for \$400 and approximately 9.4 grams (approximately .33 ounce) of crack cocaine for \$400; and on March 21, 2003, he sold approximately 23.7 grams (approximately .84 ounce) of crack cocaine for \$800.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.